50 POL 33-1 JORDAN

EXCISE

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

619 RMR

SECRET

49 Action

55 Info

Orig 4391

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PP RUEHCRN RUQMBE RUQMVL
DE RUFHPA 132 03/1640Z
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFHDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐ 5/13/83
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS b-1

S E C R E T ACTION DEPT PRIORITY 4391 INFO LONDON 774 BEIRUT 35 TEL AVIV 38 FM PARIS FEB 3, 5 PM

L I M D I S

NOFORN

B1-(3a) 3

[redacted]

INFORMED DCM TODAY [redacted] RE RECENT CONVERSATIONS FRENCH WITH LEBANESE AND ISRAELIS ON JORDAN WATERS PROBLEM WITH REF RECENT ARAB DECISION UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION IN LEBANON DIVERT WATERS FROM ISRAEL TO SYRIA.

ACCORDING [redacted] PROBLEM RAISED IN PARIS BY LEBANESE B1

CFN 4391 744 35 38 3 5

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(1) FORMIN TAKLA WHO PASSED THROUGH SOME WEEKS AGO EN ROUTE FROM NEW YORK. IN RESTRICTED SESSION, TAKLA FRANKLY ASKED FRENCH INTERVENE WITH ISRAELIS IN ORDER SOFTEN ISRAELI REACTION TO LEBANESE DECION ACCEPT ARAB VERDICT AND PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION MENTIONED ABOVE ALMOST ON ISRAELI BORDERS. [redacted] HAD TALKED B1-(3a)B WITH AMB EYTAN CONCERNING TAKLA'S REQUEST AND EXPLAINED LEBANESE HAD FELT OBLIGED ACCEPT ARAB VERDICT AND PROCEED ALONG THESE LINES AND HAD PLEADED FOR MODERATION ON PART OF ALL CONCERNED ON JORDAN WATERS PROBLEM.

DEFINED BY RM/R

SECRET

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[redacted]EYTAN HAD OBVIOUSLY CONSULTED HIS GOVT AND HAD THEN RECENTLY REPLIED TO FRENCH SAYING HIS GOVT HAD EXPECTED LEBANESE TO BE MODERATE BUT THEY HAD UNFORTUNATELY CHOSE DECISION TO DIVERT WATERS. IF THEY PROCEEDED ALONG THESE LINES AND CAUSED WATER LEVEL LAKE TIBERIAS TO FALL IT WOULD MEAN WAR. HE SAID THIS WAS CLEAR POSITION ISRAELIS AND LEBANESE SHOULD BE SO INFORMED BY FRENCH. HE ADDED LEBANESE WERE NOT EVEN DIVERTING WATER FOR THEIR OWN USE BUT FOR SYRIANS AND FURTHERMORE IT WAS AGAINST ALL INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDINGS DIVERT WATERS OF RIVER WHICH DID NOT EVEN ENTER STATE CONCERNED (SYRIA).

OUR SOURCE SAYS HE INFORMED LEBANESE ALSO THE FRENCH FELT THEY HAD RIGHT DIVERT WATERS FOR THEIR OWN USE BUT NOT FOR ANOTHER STATE SUCH AS SYRIA. [redacted]FRENCH HAD

COUNSELED MODERATION ON BOTH PARTIES AND UNDERLINED TO LEBANESE NEED PROCEED CAREFULLY ESPECIALLY IF FOR EXAMPLE THEIR OPERATION WOULD RESULT IN RISE OF SALT LEVEL LAKE TIBERIAS.

[redacted]FRENCH INFO WAS TO EFFECT THAT INTERVENTIONIST WING IN ISRAEL QUITE STRONG AND THAT SOME ELEMENTS ESPECIALLY OF ARMY WERE ARGUING IT WOULD BE BETTER TO ATTACK MILITARILY DIRECTLY AS SOON AS LEBANESE CONSTRUCTION BEGAN AND NOT AWAIT OUTCOME OF THIS OPERATION. THIS ELEMENT REASONED, WE WERE TOLD, THAT IT WOULD BE TOO LATE TO INTERVENE IF THE ISRAEILIS WAITED TO JUDGE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN LEBANESE CONSTRUCTION FINISHED.

[redacted]COUVE DE MURVILLE FELT EXCHANGE WITH US AND (LATER) WITH BRITISH WOULD BE HELPFUL. HE OPPOSED TRIPARTITE APPROACH TO LEBANESE AND/OR ISRAELIS AS HE FELT THIS WOULD CAUSE PROBLEM WITH SOVIETS. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ALL THREE GOVTS SEPARATELY CONVEYED CONCERN TO STATES INVOLVED IN THE AREA. HE UNDERLINED LEBANESE AND ISRAEILIS HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ALL FRENCH CONVERSATIONS WITH THE OTHER. ACCORDINGLY [redacted]WAS MOST CATEGORIC HIS INFO WAS NOFORN AND HE SAID COUVE WOULD ALSO PREFER WE NOT REPEAT NOT DISCUSS WITH BRITISH EITHER AT THIS TIME.

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IN CLOSING WE WERE TOLD FRENCH APPROACH REMAINS THAT BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTATION JOHNSTON PLAN FOR JORDAN WATERS BUT IN ABSENCE THIS FRENCH WOULD NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT LEBANDESE ACTION. HE CONCLUDED ON WARNING NOTE RE APPARENT TOUGHNESS PRESENT ISRAELI POSITION AND ADDED COUVE WAS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT MATTER.

EMB WOULD, OF COURSE, LIKE HAVE DEPT VIEWS FOR CONVEYING TO FRENCH HERE AND THIS WOULD APPEAR APPROPRIATE SUBJECT ALSO FOR DISCUSSION WITH COUVE IN WASHINGTON. GP-2.

BOHLEN
BT